

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

25th June, 2019

Proposition No. P.2019/40

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

POLICY & RESOURCE PLAN
2018 REVIEW AND 2019 UPDATE

AMENDMENT

Proposed by: Deputy J S Merrett

Seconded by: Deputy C J Green

1. At the end of Proposition 1(h), to add:

", in consultation with the Committee for Employment & Social Security, the Committee for Health & Social Care, and other stakeholders, and focusing especially on the work being done to address:
 - (i) benefit rates and tax levels;
 - (ii) affordability of housing; and
 - (iii) affordability of primary health care and emergency health care;"

2. In Proposition 1(i):
 - a. after "Policy & Resources Committee," to add "guided by existing States Resolutions on in-work poverty and";
 - b. after "working with", to add "the Committee for Employment and Social Security, other States Committees and".

Explanatory Note

Proposition 1(h)

This insertion makes it clear that, in its 2020 update to the Assembly on in-work poverty, the Policy Resources Committee must retain a focus on the areas agreed by the States as being of high priority, namely: affordability of primary and emergency care, affordability of housing, and the way in which taxation and benefits can address in-work poverty.

These priorities are set out in paragraphs 13.2 to 13.6 of the Scrutiny Management Committee's In-Work Poverty Review (P.2018/140). When the States approved the Policy

& Resources Committee's amendment to that policy letter, in January 2019, it explicitly agreed that future reporting should focus on these areas.

While other policies which have an important impact on in-work poverty may be considered alongside these, it is important that the States retains its focus on these pre-identified, prioritised areas for action until meaningful progress has been made in addressing them.

Proposition 1(i)

In-work poverty is an issue which sits substantially within the mandate for the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security, although many other States Committees also have a role to play. This amendment makes it clear, for the avoidance of doubt, that the Policy & Resource Committee will need to work with not only the third sector but also with the relevant States committees on any work addressing in-work poverty.

This amendment also re-emphasises the States' agreed direction of travel on in-work poverty, to ensure that any future work is consistent with what has already been agreed, and does not result in resources being moved away from priority areas (whether that's work on the affordability of primary care; or re-evaluation of current tax policies or benefit rates, caps and disregards; or the development of effective affordable housing policies) while important work is still needed in those areas.